

A Palestinian-Arab man from eastern Jerusalem had also boarded the train and stood next to her by the door. The man, Jamil Tamimi, produced a 7-inch knife and savagely stabbed her multiple times. Tackled by other passengers after injuring a number of others, Tamimi was carted off to jail by an Israeli policeman who was also on the train.

Hannah died shortly thereafter at Hadassah hospital. Her British family was shattered.

Jerusalem police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld characterized it as a terrorist attack, the latest in a series of such knife attacks that spring. But back at the police station, it became apparent that the attacker was also mentally disturbed, and a battery of Israeli psychologists started analyzing the crazed terrorist murderer.

So—after a lengthy trial and Tamimi's conviction of murder—the judge at the Jerusalem District Court mulled over the life-in-prison sentence that is the normal result in such cases. But the judge declared that—given expert testimony about the killer's mental status—the sentence should be shortened to 18 years. The hope was that mental-health treatment provided in prison might rehabilitate the man.

Hannah's family was, not surprisingly, outraged at the leniency of the sentence, as were many members of the press and the political class in Israel.

We now travel those nine short miles north to the Palestinian Authority's Ramallah High Court, where another criminal was sentenced for his evil crime. The felon was Issam Akel, a citizen of both the United States and the Palestinian Territories.

Akel had inherited property in Jerusalem, and entered into a contract to sell it to—horror of horrors!—a Jew. His sentence was meted out in Ramallah on the same day as Hannah's murderer's was in Jerusalem—the last day of 2018.

Under Palestinian Land Law, selling land to a Jew is a capital crime, for which hundreds have paid the ultimate price once the transactions became public. Akel was lucky—the court was willing to let him off with a life sentence at hard labor. His only hope for any commutation is the fact that he has dual-citizenship, and the United States' State Department may attempt to intercede on his behalf.

Imagine if someone in the United States—or anywhere else in the Western world—were punished for selling a home to a black person or a person of any ethnicity: Against the law, right? Because it's an abomination.

Consider what really separates Jerusalem and Ramallah—and you won't find it on any roadmap.

In one world, justice tempered with mercy mitigates the punishment for a cold-blooded terrorist murderer because of his impaired mental state, bolstered by the slim hope that even a person like him has a chance at rehabilitation.

In the other world, the court enforces a racist law that condemns anyone who does business with Jews, yielding a life sentence at hard labor for an American citizen.

Jerusalem and Ramallah are two cities leading two societies that operate in utterly different ways and with stunningly disparate value systems.

PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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Arabs living under the governance and judiciary of the Palestinian Authority suffer under a legal system that foments hatred of Israel and the Jews—among many other travesties of justice. Their judiciary lacks real independence and is merely another enforcement wing of President Mahmoud Abbas' corrupt and racist Palestinian Authority.

Just a few months before Akel's sentencing for a real-estate deal, a majority of the judges on the Palestinian Supreme Court in Ramallah threatened to resign over "judiciary reforms" offered by Abbas that would expand even further the president's ability to interfere in PA courtrooms. These "reforms" would extend Abbas' power to hire and fire judges at will, and would establish a charmingly named "Judicial Purge Commission."

Any hope for peace and reconciliation between the societies represented by Jerusalem and Ramallah must begin with the wholesale reform of Palestinian-Arab governance, and the dawning of true justice in that society. Racially hateful laws like the Palestinian Land Law must be revoked, and an independent judiciary must be created.

The Palestinian Authority's perversion of justice reflects a society that is not focused on nation-building a Palestinian State. Rather, its guiding principles are the eradication of Israel and the racist annihilation of its Jews.

No "land-for-peace" deal is going to shorten the vast separation between Jerusalem and Ramallah.

In talking with friends, family and colleagues, by all means spread the word about poor Hannah Bladon, and debate the Jerusalem court's leniency. But also discuss the other victim of December 31, 2018: Issam Akel, one of our fellow citizens. His sentence encapsulates all that is wrong with Ramallah, and points to where the real apartheid society is located in the Middle East.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's recent *hasbarah* campaign asserting the near-impossibility of distinguishing anti-Zionism from classic, racist anti-Semitism.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen

Editor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. We may never defeat anti-Semitism or its equally twisted twin, anti-Zionism—but we have an obligation to fight them with every ounce of our being. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "Anti-Zionism is Racism." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month—for the first time in the *New York Times*. It exposes slander of Israel and opposition to Israel's existence by BDS activists, members of Students for Justice in Palestine and even a few politicians as racist calumnies. These lies need to be called out, and FLAME's new position paper does it boldly. In addition to running in mainstream media, this editorial will be sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us.

Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). To donate online, just go to donate now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on the true obstacle to peace, which is the lack of a credible Palestinian peace partner.

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The logo for FLAME, featuring the word "FLAME" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a flame icon above it.

Facts and Logic
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